

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Humanitarian cargo of medicine and supplies delivered to Georgia
- Nearly \$3 million in USG support for eight new Georgian Partners
- HALO Trust achieves post-conflict cleanup
- New TB clinic in Gori

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US Assistance to Georgia

JANUARY 2010

USG Airlifts Medicines and Supplies to Georgia

U.S. Ambassador John Bass and Georgian Minister of Health Alexander Kvitashvili welcomed Physicians with Heart (PWH) humanitarian cargo of medicines and supplies worth \$7.2 million on October 30 at Tbilisi International Airport. The arrival of the medical assistance, brought to Georgia by the U.S. Department of State onboard a USAF C-17 cargo plane, was the result of collaborative efforts between the U.S. Department of State, the American Family Physicians Foundation, and Heart to Heart International.

"This assistance will help one of Georgia's most vulnerable populations, displaced by last year's war and by earlier conflicts. It's another tangible sym-

bol of the United States commitment to the people of Georgia," Ambassador Bass said. Dan Rosenblum, State Department Coordinator for U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia led the delegation onboard the C-17.

Members of the PWH delegation also distributed medicines and supplies to schools and orphanages to help the local population recover from the military conflict of August 2008. The project was coordinated with the Georgian Ministry of Health.



USAID Announces Eight New Georgian Partners

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced funding for eight new Georgian partners. The new partners were awarded competitive grants through two new programs.

USAID's Development Grant Program, designed to attract new USAID partners and build their capacity to deal with key economic and environmental

issues facing the country, awarded grants of up to \$500,000 to five new NGO partners: the Association of Persons with Disability in Tsalenjikha, the Caucasus Environmental NGO Network, the Center for Training and Consultancy, the Georgian Center for the Conservation of Wildlife and the Women's Fund in Georgia. These grantees will work with internally displaced per-

sons (IDPs) and women from remote areas of Georgia to help them start and grow their own businesses and help Georgia deal with key environmental issues of deforestation and climate change.

Through their Improved Public Policy Discourse Program, which is part of the \$1 billion pledge to the people of Georgia, USAID awarded...page 2

New Georgian Partners:

- * Association of Persons with Disability in Tsalenjikha
- *Caucasus Environmental NGO Network
- *Center for Training and Consultancy
- *Georgian Center for the Conservation of Wildlife
- *Women's Fund in Georgia.
- *Georgia Institute for Public Affairs
- *Partnership for Social Initiatives
- *Tbilisi Business Service Center.

Eight New Georgian Partners story continued...

three grants (of up to \$200,000 each) to local NGOs to foster a more pluralistic exchange of ideas and promote more active involvement in the public policy discussions. The goal of the program is to enhance the dialogue between the Georgian government and civil society by engaging think tanks, the media and other nongovernmental institutions in conducting issue-based

analysis and sharing information and options with the Government of Georgia and the public. The three new Public Policy Discourse Program partners are: the Georgia Institute for Public Affairs (with the Policy & Management Consulting Group), the Partnership for Social Initiatives and the Tbilisi Business Service Center.

In total, the new partners will receive nearly \$3 million in U.S. Government support. In addition, USAID is providing training and technical assistance to ensure the long-term success of these new partners.



Ambassador Bass unveils a stone marker in honor of the mine clearance event.

HALO Trust Achieves Post-Conflict Cleanup

Ambassador John Bass, together with Georgian Deputy Defense Minister Nodar Kharshiladze, Governor of Shida Kartli region Lado Vardzelashvili, and HALO Trust members commemorated the successful clearance of explosive remnants of war in the Shida Kartli Region in December 2009.

The Shida Kartli region had been littered with unexploded ordnance following the August 2008 conflict between Russia and Georgia. Since 2008, the Department of State has provided HALO Trust with \$6.7 million for the clearance of landmines and ERW throughout Georgia, including \$4.3 million for clearance activities in Shida

Kartli. As a result of the work of HALO Trust, 3,781 items of explosive ordnance were destroyed in the Shida Kartli region, and 8,407 acres of land were returned to productive use.



Ambassador Bass attends the opening ceremony of the Temi Special Needs Home.

USG Funds New Housing for Vulnerable Population

The opening of the Temi Special Needs Home, in Gremi, Kakheti region was celebrated on December 21, 2009. The home welcomes residents of all ages and capacities including children and adults with special needs, as well as children without families, and elderly people. Currently there are

84 residents in the home. The new facility will serve as both a home and a school and it embodies the USG continued commitment to improving the lives of one the most vulnerable groups in any society: children and those with special needs. It was a project of the U.S. Department of Defense Of-

fice of Defense Cooperation managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Total funding for the project provided by the United States Government was \$309,223.

US Funds Quick Response to Kvareli Floods



In September 2009, heavy rains in the Kvareli District, Kakheti Region of Georgia, caused inundation of rivers and torrent flow which completely ruined the central pipeline and the water system. The majority of the population in Kvareli was left without potable water including the Regional hospital and Maternity House of Kvareli.

Counterpart's CHAP Community and Humanitarian Assistance Program) Georgia staff assessed the situation and decided to re-

place the old reservoir and rehabilitate the existing wells at several locations in the Town of Kvareli.

Under its "Small Reconstruction Projects" initiatives, the U.S. Department of State provided Counterpart (an international NGO) with \$12,000 in funds, with which Counterpart purchased a water reservoir for Rustaveli Street of Kvareli, arranged a water supply system for multi-floor buildings, and rehabilitated the water well and tower located on the territory of Kvareli Central Hospital.



The renovated water supply system will provide about 800 disaster-affected families of Kvareli and patients at the Regional Hospital and Maternity House of Kvareli with access to a safe potable water supply.



New "Verdict Show" Airs on Georgian TV



In October 2009, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) funded a Verdict Show series on jury trials in cooperation with the Supreme Court of Georgia. The first show aired on a local TV station on October 4.

The show is designed as a PSA (Public Service Announcement)-type video, with drama mixed in, to grab public attention and educate

the public on the role of a jury as a fact-finder, and the role of the judge as the neutral party and as having responsibility for controlling the parties and the proceedings. A famous public figure is chosen among 12 sitting jurors for each show to make deliberations more attractive. Singer Gio Khutsishvili sat as a juror on the first show.

With the new Criminal Procedure Code, which is expected to enter into force this year, "Verdict"

serves as a good educational tool to raise public awareness on the much discussed Jury trial system adopted by Georgian Parliament in October 2009.



INL Sponsors ATF Post Blast Investigation Training

The U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) International Training Branch conducted a post blast investigations training program in Tbilisi in early November 2009 to help the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs (MOIA) Staff conduct timely investigation of explosions and to prevent explosions.

The training was implemented via practicals on the MOIA range and lectures at the police academy of MOIA. ATF instructors and the course participants detonated a few vehicles and mopeds.

The training provided fundamental knowledge of mine handling methods and physical safety issues, the risks connected with explosive devices, the safety measures that can

be taken for such risks, extraction of material evidence, types of laboratory research, and investigative techniques. Two experts of the Main Forensic Division of the MOIA, 18 employees from the Ministry's regional sub-units, and several employees of the Mine Clearance Services took part in the training.

USAID's New Assistance Program Aids Small Farmers



Ambassador Bass attends the reception to mark the launch of AMP.

shortage of agricultural machinery, particularly among Georgia's small farmers, which is noted as a serious constraint to agricultural development.

chinery services to at least 12,500 small farmers, and discounted machinery services for 2010 crop production to approximately 2,000 families displaced by the conflict that were reintegrated into new durable settlements.

U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Access to Mechanization Project (AMP), funded as part of the U.S. Government's \$1 billion pledge, launched on December 7. AMP is a \$5.1 million program that addresses the

Over the next 30 months, the project will use a combination of matching grants, leveraged commercial finance, business and extension training, and volunteer technical assistance to establish 25-30 machinery service centers. The centers will be private businesses that will provide fee-based custom ma-

It is estimated that AMP will help to create up to 225 new jobs and generate over \$5.8 million in revenues for the new centers. Having access to mechanization will also help farmers cultivate more land and increase productivity, which will lead to higher incomes. For more information on AMP, including application materials, please visit www.amp.ge.

MCC Funds Opening of Milk Processing Enterprise

The new milk processing enterprise, "Gigi" LLC, located in Kvareli, was financed within the framework of Millennium Challenge Georgia Fund's (MCG) Agribusiness Development Activity (ADA). With the \$99,600 grant from ADA, "Gigi" LLC has expanded its milk collection to include dairy processing. Cheese, matsoni, and butter are processed and sold at the facility. The ADA grant funding has

been used to purchase a milk collecting basin and cooler, a lacto scan, processing and milking equipment, and refrigerated storage as well as for environmental mitigation, marketing, and training expenses.

"Gigi" LLC made a matching investment of \$116,500 to cover all operating costs (i.e. construction, supplies, purchase of livestock, etc...), including salaries

for newly created jobs. The company has purchased 43 milking cows, 2 bulls, cultivated 40 hectares of arable land for feed production.



With the \$99,600 grant from MCG's ADA, "Gigi" LLC expanded its milk collection to include dairy processing.

EXBS Organizes Commodity Identification Training

To raise awareness and familiarity regarding goods subject to export control, the typical tactics employed by proliferators to procure such items, and the importance of interdicting illicit procurements, the Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) organized Commodity Identification Training (CIT), held at the Maritime Academy in Batumi in November.

The CIT included presentations on electronic equipment and components, in-

dustrial equipment, fabricated components, structural materials, nuclear materials, chemicals, bio-agents, and toxins used in the development and production of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons (and related missile systems). The training was based on physical observation of suspect equipment and focused primarily on the appearance (and criteria) such as special markings, packaging characteristics, and container type, size, and weight.

The training, hosted by the US Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration's International Nonproliferation Export Control Program (INECP), was attended by 30 Georgian Government officials from the Revenue Service and the Coast Guard. EXBS is coordinating implementation of the National strategy for CIT, which will be included in the curriculum of the Ministry of Interior Academy.





The Gonio radar station, located on the Turkish border, is slated to open in January.

Ambassador Bass presents 41 young people from three regional Georgian towns with certificates for their successful participation in the "Local Youth Self Governance" project. See picture on the far right.

Sports Facility: Before & After



Before Reconstruction



After Reconstruction

DHS Funds Radar Stations on Black Sea Coast

The last of four US funded radar stations on the Black Sea coast of Georgia is slated to open in January. The radar stations permit the Georgian Coast Guard to monitor Georgia's maritime borders and identify vessels entering and exiting Georgian territorial waters, said James Kelly, chief of party for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) GBSLE assistance program.

Kelly described the stations as

"enforcement tools that enhance Georgian capabilities to prevent, deter, and detect contraband smuggling, illicit weapon trafficking, the illegal migration of aliens, and to address terrorism threats." Georgia has historically been a main thoroughfare for illegal trafficking; its Black Sea coast is almost 200 miles long.

The Gonio Radar station, which cost about \$500,000 and took over three years to

complete, is located in Gonio near the Turkish border. The other three stations were built in Chakvi (located a third of the way up the Black Sea Coast), Supsa (located half way up the coast), and Anaklia (located in the northern coastal area of Georgia), for about \$2.14 million.

The US Army Corps of Engineers oversaw the design and construction for three of the four radar stations.

41 Complete the Local Youth Self Governance Project

New Generation–New Initiative, a local NGO funded through Public Affairs' (PAS) Democracy Commission small grants program, implemented the project, "Local Youth Self Governance," to engage youth in public service and the decision-making processes. Enthusiastic teenagers working with their respective local Sakrebulo succeeded in raising youth-related problems to their local officials. They carried out a number of joint mini-projects with them, such as film screenings at a local orphanage, charity drives in public schools,

and field trips to local cultural and historical sites.

"Democracy only works if the citizens of a country participate and take an interest, and serve their nation and their country by having opinions and presenting those opinions to their elected officials. The great transformation the citizens of Georgia have undertaken over the last few years will only be sustained over the long term with the on-going interest and involvement of all of you to make your own deci-

sions about the future," said Ambassador Bass in greeting 41 young people from Telavi, Marneuli and Akhaltsikhe. He recognized their successful participation in the "Local Youth Self Governance" project on October 22.



CHAP in Georgia Delivers New Sports Facility

The opening of the sports facility at the Saguramo Educational Institution for Orphans and Care-Devoid Children was celebrated on November 4. The Institution serves 41 orphans and children from the Mtskheta District. Prior to its complete reconstruction, the sports facility had been out of service due to unsafe conditions, leaving the children without appropriate physical development during the winter months. The US Department of State allocated \$12,000 for the reconstruction of the facility,

which Counterpart's Community and Humanitarian Assistance Program (CHAP) began in September 2009.

The new facility includes new locker rooms, storage for equipment, new floors, doors and windows, repaired and repainted ceilings and walls, new electric lines, and a renovated water supply. After the opening ceremony, Physicians with Heart (PWH) provided the children with quilts, bed sheets, hygiene and school kits, toys,

vitamins, and sports shoes. PWH also gave \$5,000, which CHAP staff used for the purchase of sports equipment and school supplies.

The facility will have a positive impact on the physical development and health of these vulnerable children. The project also provided IDPs from Abkhazia and South Ossetia with temporary employment.

Results Released in Court Monitoring Project

The U.S. Department of Justice/INL Resident Legal Advisor (RLA) delivered results of a 6 month court monitoring project to the Ministry of Justice and Supreme Court Officials in September 2009. The report provides a rare window into the reality of daily practices in Tbilisi City Court.

The DOJ report gathers statistics regarding the types of criminal cases that were observed, and the accompanying common issues that were repeatedly observed in Tbilisi. The report highlights encouraging signs of judicial independence, but also describes instances of potential prosecutorial misconduct, and some apparent miss-steps by the Judiciary. The report also describes the lack of professionalism and overall quality of the defense bar.

The report was well-received by both the Supreme Court of Georgia, and by the Ministry of Justice. Both entities voiced concern over the issues raised by the DOJ court monitors, and both entities have already set out an agenda to address the current deficiencies in professionalism shown by the prosecutors and judges. The DOJ court monitoring project plans to continue to gather objective information on the judiciary.



US Supports Renovation of TB Clinic in Gori

Ambassador Bass and the First Lady of Georgia, Sandra Roelofs, celebrated the opening of newly renovated "DOTS Spot" in Gori on December 10. A DOTS Spot is an outpatient tuberculosis (TB) clinic where patients receive daily treatments, which are provided in accordance with internationally accepted Directly Observed Treatment-Short course (DOTS) procedures. The Gori DOTS Spot is one of four renovated clinics in Shida Kartli. The project also funded the renovation of DOTS Spots in Kaspi, Kareli, and Khashuri.

Following the August 2008 conflict, USAID's National TB Treatment Program, a 6.5 year, \$6.7 million program designed to im-



prove the quality of TB diagnosis and treatment in Georgia, was expanded to include Shida Kartli as a means to reduce the risks associated with interrupted treatments. These interruptions may lead to the development of extremely drug resistant forms of TB, which are essentially incurable. There approximately 300 new tuberculosis cases registered annually in Shida Kartli, and nearly half of those cases come from Gori. Funding for the Shida

Kartli expansion is part of the U.S. Government's \$1 billion pledge to the people of Georgia.



Ambassador Bass attends the opening of the TB clinic in Gori.

Thanks to everyone who submitted stories for this issue of the newsletter. To submit stories for this quarterly publication please contact Joshann Palagi at PalagiJI@state.gov.